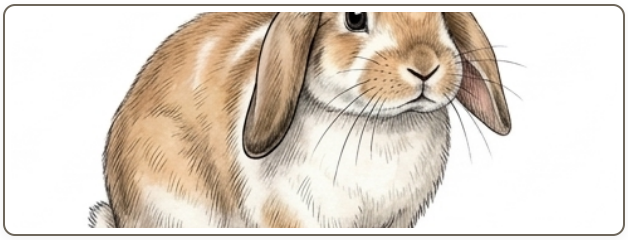
Domestic Rabbit

Oryctolagus cuniculus

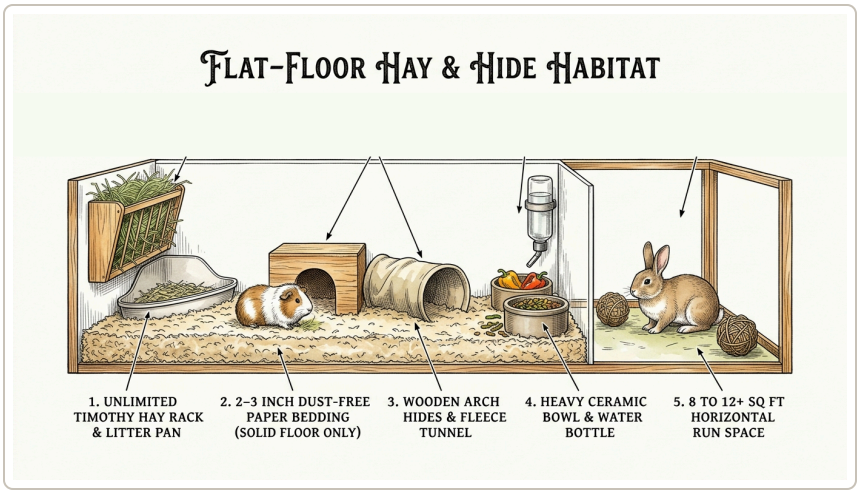


The Quick Version: Rabbits are smart, quiet, cat-like house companions that naturally use a litter box and do joyful mid-air twists ('binkies') when given room to run! They are **8–12 year companions** that need an **exercise pen (X-Pen) or bunny-proofed room (12–16+ sq ft)**, **85% unlimited Timothy hay**, and gentle floor-level affection rather than being carried around.

LIFESPAN	ADULT WEIGHT	SOCIAL RULE	MIN HOME BASE	ROOM TEMP
8–12+ Years	3–12+ lbs (By Breed)	Best in Spayed/Neutered Pairs	12–16+ Sq Ft X-Pen	60°–72°F (Overheats >78°F)

1. Spacious Exercise Pen (X-Pen), Litter Box & Bunny-Proofing

12–16+ SQ FT X-PEN HOME BASE + CAT-SIZED HAY LITTER PAN + CORD PROTECTORS!



Ideal Indoor Temp
Rabbits wear a thick fur coat — they love cool rooms! **60°–72°F**

Heatstroke Danger (>78°F)
Freeze water bottles for them to lean against in summer **Never >78°F**

Floor Traction
Use washable rugs or fleece mats — slick wood slides! **Non-Slip Rug**

Litter Box Setup
Paper pellets on bottom + huge pile of Timothy hay on top **Cat-Size Pan**

Active Hours
Most playful at dawn & dusk (Crepuscular) **Dawn & Dusk**

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

Home Base: 4×4 Exercise Pen (X-Pen) vs. Small Hutch/Cage

A rabbit needs to take 3–4 full hops in a straight line and stand flat on its hind legs without its ears touching a ceiling:

OPTION A: 30"–36" TALL DOG EXERCISE PEN (X-PEN) OVER A WASHABLE RUG (OUR TOP PICK!)
Gives 16 sq ft of floor space, walks right open for easy sweeping, and fits a full-sized cat litter box, cardboard castle, and lounge mat!

OPTION B: LARGE CAGE WITH DOOR LEFT OPEN INTO AN X-PEN YARD
If you use a standard cage as a bedroom/bathroom station, leave the front door open into an attached pen + give 3–4 hours of supervised room exercise daily.

Effortless Litter Box Training & Cord Bunny-Proofing

Rabbits naturally poop while they munch hay — making them almost as easy to litter train as a cat!

OPTION A: CAT-SIZED LITTER PAN + PAPER PELLETS + HAY PILE
Put 1" of unscented paper pellet litter in a large cat pan (**never use clumping or clay cat litter!**) and hang your hay rack right over one end.

OPTION B: PROTECT BASEBOARDS & "SPICY HAY" (ELECTRICAL CORDS!)
To a rabbit, phone chargers and lamp cords look just like tree roots! Wrap all floor cords in split plastic cord tubing and give plenty of willow & applewood chews.

Floor-Level Bonding & Safe Two-Handed Support

Because rabbits are ground-dwelling prey animals with light, fragile skeletons, being lifted high off the floor feels like being caught by an eagle:

OPTION A: SIT ON THE FLOOR AND LET THEM HOP INTO YOUR LAP
Rabbits bond fastest when you sit on the rug with cilantro and let them nudge your hand for forehead rubs! When happy, they softly purr by clicking their teeth.

OPTION B: ALWAYS SUPPORT THE HINDQUARTERS (NEVER LIFT BY EARS!)
If a rabbit kicks out in mid-air without back-leg support, it can fracture its own spine. Always scoop one hand under the chest and the other firmly under the rump.

Flip Over for Page 2: Feeding Schedule, Team Tips & Grab-and-Go Checklist →

3. High-Fiber Herbivore Diet (85% Hay + Greens + Limited Pellets)

UNLIMITED GRASS HAY 24/7 IS THE #1 SECRET TO HEALTHY TEETH AND PREVENTING FATAL GI STASIS!

85% of Diet 24/7 Unlimited	**Oxbow Western Timothy, Orchard, or Oat Hay:** Refresh a pile as big as your rabbit's body twice a day! (Babies under 6 months eat Alfalfa hay; adults eat Timothy/Orchard).
Daily Greens 1 Cup Per 2 lbs	**Romaine, Green/Red Leaf, Cilantro, Basil, Bok Choy & Dandelion Greens:** Rotate 3 leafy greens daily — wet veggies also help hydrate their gut!
Plain Pellets 1/4 Cup Per 5 lbs	**Oxbow Essentials Adult Rabbit Pellets:** Adults only need a small measured scoop of plain Timothy pellets! Fruit/berry treats should be no bigger than 1 tsp a day.

Gut Health & Cecotrope Facts Every Bunny Owner Should Know:

- **Two Kinds of Poop!** Dry round cocoa puffs + soft blackberry-shaped 'cecotropes' they eat directly for B-vitamins
- **Heavy Water Bowl** Rabbits drink way more water from a heavy ceramic dog bowl than a sipper bottle!
- **Skip Muesli & Corn** Seeds, corn, nuts, and yogurt drops ferment in a rabbit's cecum and cause fatal bloat
- **12-Hour Stasis Rule** If a rabbit refuses treats or doesn't poop for 12 hours, go to an exotic vet immediately!

Why Spaying & Neutering Matters So Much for Rabbits: Unspayed female rabbits have up to a **60–80% risk of uterine cancer by age 4**, and unneutered rabbits spray urine and fight when puberty hits (4–6 months). Spaying/neutering makes litter box habits 10x cleaner and lets you bond two rabbits for life!

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Animal Care Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

Never Bathe or Trance a Rabbit
Submerging a rabbit in water can cause fatal shock and hypothermia, and flipping them onto their back ('trancing') triggers a terrifying tonic-immobility prey freeze.

Keep Critical Care on Hand
Every rabbit first-aid kit should include a pouch of **Oxbow Critical Care** herbivore recovery food, baby gas drops (simethicone), and an exotic vet's phone number.

Brush Heavily During Molts
Rabbits cannot vomit hairballs! Brush them daily during spring and autumn coat blows and keep hay flowing so swallowed fur passes right through.

Ask an Exotic Vet About RHDV2
Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV2) is present in the Pacific Northwest — ask your Oregon exotic vet about the annual RHDV2 vaccine, even for indoor bunnies.

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

X-PEN, FLOORING & LITTER SETUP

- [ ] 30"–36" Tall Exercise Pen (X-Pen) or Extra-Large Home Base
- [ ] Cat-Sized Litter Box + Unscented Paper Pellet Litter (No Clay!)
- [ ] Non-Slip Washable Rug or Fleece Floor Mats
- [ ] Split Plastic Cord Protectors (for bunny-proofing rooms)

HAY, PELLETS & RECOVERY KIT

- [ ] Large Bale/Bag of Oxbow Western Timothy & Orchard Grass Hay
- [ ] Oxbow Essentials Adult (or Young) Rabbit Pellets (Plain Timothy)
- [ ] Oxbow Simple Rewards Baked Treats & Papaya/Digestive Support Tabs
- [ ] Large Hay Feeder Rack / Bag

BOWLS, HIDES & ENRICHMENT

- [ ] 2 Heavy Ceramic Bowls (1 for Water, 1 for Pellets/Greens)
- [ ] 2-Door Cardboard Castle or Wooden Arch Hideout
- [ ] Willow Balls, Applewood Sticks & Seagrass Mats to Shred
- [ ] Small Animal Nail Clippers + Grooming Brush

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: there's more than one right way to set up a great enclosure! As long as your temperatures, humidity, and diet are dialed in, your pet doesn't care whether its hide is a fancy wooden arch or a cozy fleece tunnel. Bringing home this critter is a **8–12+ year commitment** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, watch what your pet tells you with their daily behavior, find a good local exotic vet, and call or stop by the shop anytime you have questions!

MY RABBIT'S INFO

Name / Morph: _____

Current Diet: _____

Date Adopted: _____